

President's Message

Virginia O'Reilly



Dear Friends,

Once again Martha Alderson and her colleagues have presented an outstanding Young Writers Workshop. I heard from two of the mothers of participants and one grandmother after the last session. Their kids "didn't want it to end,"

Mystery writer Laurie King

continued from page 1

For her master's degree at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley her thesis was "Feminine Aspects of Yahweh." In recognition of the application of her master's degree to fiction, she received an honorary doctorate from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, her Berkeley seminary, in 1997.

King was born in the Bay Area, the third generation native of a family who left England to make their fortunes in the colonies. She now lives in Santa Cruz. Her latest release is *The Game*, sixth in the Russell-Holmes series. Now a married couple, Russell and Holmes return for their most dangerous exploit yet in an atmospheric tale of 1924 India. *The Game* brings alive an India fraught with unrest and poised for change. It's an

president

they said, and wished we'd do more of them.

These workshops are only one of the many contributions the Friends provide that make our library such a vital and exciting part of our community. In these perilous times for libraries we need help from everyone to let our Town Council know how much the Library contributes to Los Gatos and how important it is that every effort be made to minimize further budget cuts.

Please help us, and ask your family and friends to join you. Thanks so much.



unpredictable mystery that has the brilliance and character we have come to expect from this beloved writer. Copies of the book will be on hand at the meeting for signing. King dedicates *The Game* to "the librarians everywhere, who spend their lives in battle against the forces of darkness." For those of us who work with the dedicated librarians who tirelessly serve our town, it is indeed a fitting dedication. And the author a fitting Town-wide read.

—Martha Alderson



Financial Totals: April, 2004

Maximizer Savings Account . .	\$56,681
Reserve Account	\$50,586
Checking Account	\$3,875
Total	\$111,142

Proposed Friends Board 2004-2005

PresidentKathie Gaylord
Vice PresidentBetsy Petersen
Recording Secretary
.Carol Hamilton
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TreasurerMaureen O'Connell
MembershipJudy Etherington
Book SalesMarge Rice
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ProgramsVirginia O'Reilly
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Directors at Large:

Ann McClanahan
Gwen Davis
Joanne Crum
Martha Alderson

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Data Base, Kathy Cusick
Book Valuations,
Pamela Laurence



**DONATE YOUR USED
FURNITURE OR OTHER
ITEMS TO THE
MAY 15 YARD SALE
BENEFITING THE
HISTORY PROJECT
CALL JAN ROBINSON
354-6898
FOR DETAILS**

Children's Spring Programs

*Children's Programs are funded
by Friends of the Library. Chil-
dren's Library phone: 354-6891*

Thursday, May 13, 3:30 p.m.
Eliot Fintushel presents Mask and Mimes.
For ages 5 and up.

Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m.
Family Night
It's Magician Gerald Joseph.
For ages 4 and up.



Enraptured young'uns at Mark Bunnell, the Bonzai Juggling Tornado's, spring performance. Photo by: Egon Jensen

children

Summer Reading Clubs

Youngsters: you can join the Library's 2004 Summer Reading Club beginning June 1. This year's theme is "Track It Down at Your Library."

A prize packet is given each child at the completion of the reading goal. Younger children may have books read to them.

Prizes can be picked up anytime between July 1-Aug. 8. Summer Reading Club ends Aug. 8.

Teens: The third annual Teen Summer Reading Club for 13-17 year olds kicks off June 1 with the theme "Track It-Read It." Register between June 1-July 31 at the checkout desk, reference desk or online at the Teen web-site:
<http://library.logatosca.gov/teensindex.html>.

Gifts are given to teens when they register and also when they complete the program by July 31. For more information on either reading club call 354.6893.

Summer programs: Flyers listing the summer youth program will be available by June 1. Animal programs, an appearance by the Los Gatos police dog and other intriguing offerings are all on deck.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL
BOOK SALES**

**10 A.M.-2 P.M.
TOWN COUNCIL LOBBY**

**MAY 22
JULY 17
SEPTEMBER 18
NOVEMBER 20**

New books in the Library

Sue Anderson, Reference Librarian

Fiction

Prairie Nocturne by Ivan Doig
Set in Montana and New York, this novel is the saga of a voice teacher, a cattle-empire heir and a black chauffeur who can also sing. Their three destinies become entwined when the hoped-for launch of the chauffeur’s performing career is blocked by the Ku Klux Klan.

Creation by Katherine Govier
A fictional account of an unusual summer-long gap in the life of John James Audubon. Part way through his masterpiece, *The Birds of*

books

America, Audubon set sail with his son and a party of young gentlemen to view nesting grounds between Newfoundland and Labrador never seen before.

Non-fiction

How the Cows Turned Mad by Maxime Schwartz
A detective story more than 200 years old, this history of the discovery of mad cow disease presents a blend of truths and untruths that demonstrate the remarkable progress of science.

The Storyteller’s Daughter

by Saira Shah

Saira Shaw was shaped by two worlds. The English-born daughter of an Afghan aristocrat, she developed a passionate interest in her ancestral heritage.

At 21 she became a correspondent at the front of the war between the Afghans and the Soviets, imprisoned within a woman’s burqa. In this guise she discovered her extended family and also what she wanted to keep and reject of her heritage.



Thank you, Betty McClendon

The library will receive a bequest of **\$80,000** from the estate of the late **Susan Elizabeth (Betty) McClendon** to be used for children’s services. When the estate is fully settled, another **\$20,000** or more is expected to be realized for the library. Betty’s mother, **Hilda McClendon**, was Los Gatos children’s librarian from 1923 to 1929.

Betty McClendon was a beloved dance teacher who, for generations, taught area young people not only dance, but also the finer aspects of graceful living. A nearly lifelong Los Gatan, Ms. McClendon was our “Miss Manners,” imparting a smoother social patina to legions of youngsters.

Thank you, Betty, for this generous gift. But, most of all, thanks for continuing to dance in our hearts.



Here’s Betty in 1937, welcoming home football hero Nello Falaschi from a New Year’s Day parade. Pictured from left are John Yerkes, Falaschi, Bryce McClendon, Marjory Duncan, Betty, Marcia Casauang, Don Kap and “Bus” McGee.

—Photo from Los Gatos Mail News

**YOU CAN BE
FOREVER
REMEMBERED
AS A LOVER
OF BOOKS AND
LIBRARIES BY
NAMING FRIENDS
OF LOS GATOS
PUBLIC LIBRARY
IN YOUR WILL**

Library Director’s Corner

Peggy Conaway



The library is not just about books. It is about community. We are a social assembly place for parents and

children, seniors, students and lifelong learners. As a community center for learning, we serve as an educational institution, and as a complementary component to the local schools, adding support and enrichment to their efforts. The U.S. ideal of a free public education for every child led naturally to a movement for free public libraries. Our own library, free and proudly independent since 1898, has provided 106 years of equal access to information for all, a notable achievement for our small town. We are an organization that has gone digital, but still serves all of our customers with the most appropriate text or virtual materials that we can obtain.

The *Hooked on History* project currently underway at the library is

director

helping to weave the fabric of the community together, giving evidence of what the town has been in the past, and how that has influenced the current Los Gatos in meaningful ways.

Much of what we are today comes from the rich roots of a little settlement on the outer

SAVE THE DATE

**YARD SALE TO BENEFIT THE
HISTORY PROJECT:
SATURDAY, MAY 15, 9-4
45 GLENRIDGE, LOS GATOS**

edges of the Western Frontier, which had its beginnings in the 1850s. The history of the town during the past 150 years is packed full of interesting people, ideas and events.

The railroad had a profound effect on the town for 80 years: the fruit and lumber industries were immensely important to the economy, and John Bean’s spray pump company eventually evolved into the international giant FMC.

Book sales:

March \$1,554
February \$1,405
March one-day sale
of special books \$1,203

These figures are lower than the totals Friends were reaping when the paperbacks were on tables at the front of the library, rather than shelved on the Main Street side of the wall that formerly housed movie tapes.

But the self check machine necessitated the change of position. Donations of used books are always appreciated, reports chairman **Marge Rice**. However, encyclopedias, old textbooks and *Readers Digest* books simply do not sell, so please don’t bring those in.

As for eBay sales, the most unusual transaction was the sale of *The International Dictionary of Applied Mathematics*, which

The library and museum have recently formed a partnership in order to apply for a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency established to improve museum and library services. This was a very time intensive effort for library staff, for **Laura Bajuk**, executive director of the Museums of Los Gatos, and most especially for Friends’ Board member **Rita Baum**. I cannot thank Rita enough for the great amount of support and expertise that she provided. We couldn’t have made the effort without her help. The results won’t be known until September, but we are hoping to receive funding for the next two years of the history project from IMLS.

Councilwoman **Sandy Decker** has most generously offered to hold a yard sale at her home, 45 Glenridge, to benefit the history project on the day of the town-wide sale, May 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local antique dealers will be selling some items from their collections, and the library will sell some of the most interesting books donated by the community. Stop by!



listed and sold for \$7. However, postage was \$11 by media mail, the most modest method of transport. The dictionary went to a law firm in Australia.

Upcoming Special Book Sales 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Town Council Lobby

**May 22
July 17
September 18
November 20**

A Friend indeed Dudley Warner

Mary Ann Cook

Today's Friend Indeed is a man of many parts. He's **Dudley Warner**, one of the linchpins in the History Project. A retired software engineer who started his own company, **Synectics**, he has also helped start-ups get off the ground, and done consulting. But lately, he's been devoting his talents to helping project manager **Paul Kopach** digitize and catalogue the myriad of materials the library has about Los Gatos history. Warner heard about the History Project when he was doing research at the library about kite aerial photography. He was hoping to find artifacts from the old city of Alma somewhere



at the bottom of Lexington Dam by using aerial photography. Instead of finding artifacts, he found the History Project, has been working six hour stints several days a week ever since, lending his software skills to the project. So far he's located a database for indexing all that material. Called Greenstone, it's from a New Zealand University. Questions are answered promptly from that

source and the price was right: it's in the public domain, hence, free. "It's fun working at the library," the software guru says. "Paul has a wry sense of humor and I'm out of my wife Betsy's hair."

Sundials are another enthusiasm of this man of wide-ranging interests. He's currently working on a design for a sundial which he hopes will eventually grace the fountain outside the library, a site which cries out for a sundial, he says.

Endlessly curious and searching, Warner has designed a global positioning game and plays treasure hunt with a police department employee whose game name is Spiderwoman. His name is Shadowwatcher.

For physical fun he rollerblades and bicycles. Vasona and Shoreline are the usual destinations.

Another invention to his credit is an acoustic modem coupler, reports Kopach. "Whatever that is," he adds. In business the Warner consulting fee would be \$100 an hour. But to the library and the History Project he's invaluable.



Preserving the past



This photo was taken about 1910 at the Los Gatos Train Station, roughly the site of the current post office. Pictured is a Southern Pacific train on standard gauge rails. The narrow gauge rails had been pulled up in 1909. ☺ By May of 1909, the train route over the hill to Santa Cruz had been restored, after the uprooting from the 1906 earthquake. During the period from April, 1906 to May, 1909, the train route was only open as far as Wright's Station, (between Lexington and the Summit) because the tunnel at Wright's had collapsed from the earthquake. ☺ Library staff and eager volunteers are digitizing hundreds of historic photos, postcards and other memorabilia of Los Gatos history, circa 1860-1960, to preserve the past for the future. ☺ The results will be indexed and ultimately placed in the library website: <http://library.town.los-gatos.ca.us>. If you want to add to this fascinating project, Library Director Peggy Conaway would be glad to hear from you. Her number is 354-6895. ☺

Invaluable volunteers:

Rally around the History Project

In these lean financial times the contributions that residents are making at the library are invaluable. Los Gatans are coming forward to enthusiastically volunteer for the History Project and to initiate patrons in the self checkout process.

The History Project is firmly moving forward thanks in large measure to these people's contributions: **Dudley Warner, Egon Jensen, Frank Gualtieri, Lyn Dougherty and Doris Keh** –Warner scans photos, Jensen identifies them. Dougherty is the historic homes expert, organizes home tours periodically. Gualtieri is the map man, indexing the collection and he and Dougherty are covering directories and phone books to better protect them. Keh organized the earthquake materials, worked on the project last year. Those folks are tucked in the History Room in the library's lower level.

Help patrons use self-checkout

Upstairs, other volunteers introduce library users to the intricacies of the self-check machine. These volunteers work so regularly that self-check duty is taken off staff shoulders fully half the time. **Susan Bernius** is the volunteer organizer and the other self check docents are **Daniel Chung, Nathaniel Gray, Eric Hsieh, Mary Kairis, Clare Lee, Max Lincoln, Kuldip Mann, Takamasa Osone, Jesse Smith and Danielle Wang**.

These are a part of the unsung workers who keep things going smoothly despite this year's town budget woes.



Yard sale to benefit History Project

Councilwoman **Sandy Decker** has very generously offered to hold a yard sale at her house on the day of the town-wide event, and all funds will be donated to the library/museum history project. The sale takes place on **Saturday, May 15. If you have anything you'd like to donate for the sale**, that would be great. **If you'd like to work at the sale**, that would be a big help too.

It is very gratifying to have a councilmember willing to help us in this way. To donate items to the sale please call **Jan Robinson at 354-6898**.



—Peggy Conaway